



## Sustainable Arlington

### An Environment Committee of Envision Arlington

#### Draft Minutes, May 26, 2021 Virtual Meeting

Minutes for May 26, 2021

##### 1. Attendees

Elaine Crowder, Scot Samenfeld, Michael Buonauto, Brucie Moulton, Sarah Hill, Ezekiel Wheeler, Tom Ehbrecht, Gail McCormick, Roger Rosen

##### 2. Update from Planning Dept.

- a. Article 38 passed- allows rebuilds on non-conforming lots to fully replace the foundation as long as the new building meets a stringent energy efficiency threshold.

##### 3. May 6 minutes approved. read here:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aR9PlweEL1PTtqYV6P\\_SKtD404W1oiY7sImBYz4SsZc/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aR9PlweEL1PTtqYV6P_SKtD404W1oiY7sImBYz4SsZc/edit)

##### 4. EcoWeek recap. video contest [Ecoweek Video Contest](#) and other [EcoWeek events](#)

##### 5. Focus areas per last meeting - who can take the lead and what are the next steps? Some people have already signed up and more are welcome.

- a. [Arlington's Net Zero Action Plan](#) – collaborate with the Net Zero Action Plan Implementation Working Group. . [Press Release](#). [Net Zero Action Plan](#).

Tom Ehbrecht and Sarah Hill, Roger Rosen, Scott Samenfeld, would like to work on this topic, Brucie is on the working group.

- b. [Transition off fossil fuels](#) – outreach re: why, when, how- we agreed to fold this into topic A.

- c. [Local ecosystem\(s\) support](#) in Arlington:

- i. Water quality
- ii. Soil health
- iii. Native plant and wildlife systems

1. Elaine Crowder discussed a project to plant native seed packets and discourage invasives at key locations in parks in town. It might be beneficial to engage several groups in town, including school green teams at Stratton with parent Tina Halfpenny. Could a landscaper use industrial scale approaches to do Native plant seeding

2. Elaine is starting a group called no rat force- looking at requiring education when building permits are pulled and recording usage of pesticides. contact: Elaine Crowder Lise Hildebrandt, Andrea Golden, Sarah Hill, Brucie Moulton, Elaine Crowder are interested.
- d. Environmental Justice
  - i. How does environmental justice apply in Arlington, in nearby communities, and across Massachusetts? What does it mean to be an ally? (see resources below)

Tom and Brucie are interested, possibly Scott.
6. Arlington Community Education, <https://www.arlingtoncommunityed.org/>  
Sustainable Arlington has an opportunity to propose fall class ideas. We will need to confirm by mid June. Current ideas include the following. Refinements and alternative suggestions welcome.
  - a. Citizen science for the environment, Invite Claire O'Neill, founder of Earthwise Aware, <https://www.earthwiseaware.org/>
  - b. What does Net Zero mean & how do we get there as a community? Could be a panel discussion with Q&A.
  - c. Meet your building envelope: understanding what it is and why it matters. This ties into getting to Net Zero and it already matters to every single homeowner and building manager. The condition of your building envelope affects heating and cooling costs as well as occupant health and comfort. [could be part of b]
  - d. Pollinator Support All Year. Getting your garden ready for the winter? What will you do to help native pollinators during the colder months? How you prepare your garden for the winter - and how you wake it up in the spring - make all the difference. Learn about leaving some leaves, which plants provide winter havens, and the value of each yard to our pollinator populations. We'll also talk about some native plants and shrubs you might add to your garden for next year's growing season. Find out why what you plant matters and get some planting lists as guides. [could be part of a]
  - e. A panel about innovations around climate change, such as district geo thermal. Also check out gayle's blog. Create some excitement as a tool for engaging and motivating people.

Let's have the subgroups work on these - get a paragraph pitch for the class in to ACE by June 11th..

7. New business
  - a. Roger Rosen shared that a new version of the state government transparency campaign is organizing a call with Sean Garballey to show community support for more transparency. Act on Mass (see website)
8. Announcements
  - a. **Open Space and Recreation Plan**: The planning process has started for an updated OSRP that will maintain the town's eligibility for state funding programs related to open spaces and recreation. **The first engagement event will be held on June 10 at 7pm**. Watch for a series of listening

- posts in open spaces and recreation areas throughout the summer to gather community input.
- b. [Town Begins Work on Housing Plan: Related Questionnaire and June 9 Forum. The new housing plan will update the 2016 Housing Production Plan \(HPP\) consistent with state guidelines. The Arlington community is invited to share feedback on a Community Questionnaire now, and save the date for a virtual public forum on June 9 at 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Details: arlingtonma.gov/planning.](#)
  - c. Mystic Charles pollinators pathways meeting June 8th 7:30-9pm
  - d. Vehicle Electrification- the state program has been expanded to commercial vehicles. (Such as trucks)  
<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/mor-ev-rebate-program>  
Ezekiel's Arlington business is getting the first truck in the program!
  - e. Our next meeting will be June 23.
9. Adjourn

Resources:

- [Environmental Justice](#), mass.gov
- All people have a right to be protected from environmental pollution and to live in and enjoy a clean and healthful environment.
- [Environmental Justice Populations in Massachusetts](#) mass.gov
- Environmental Justice (EJ) Population Data from 2010 Census based upon demographic criteria developed by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.
- [map] [2010 Environmental Justice Populations Boston Metro](#)
- See: [publications and presentations on environmental justice](#) by [Prof. Marcos Luna](#), Salem State University

Visit Sustainable Arlington:

Website: <http://www.sustainablearlington.org/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=sustainable%20arlington%20group>

Google group: